

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as unclear. Claim 7 has additionally been amended to overcome this rejection and Applicant considers all 112 rejections overcome. Claim 1-3 and 5-7 are considered rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gassmann et al. (U.S. 4,917,407). Applicant traverses all rejections.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by Gassmann. Claim 1 in part requires "a second hollow fitting" and "whereupon inlet pipes having outside diameters complimentary in size to the diameters of the wells can be selectively and alternatively secured within the respective wells to fluidly connect such pipes to the fluid conduit and first hollow fitting." The Gassmann reference does not teach these limitation and instead teaches a housing cover 1 of a trailer/control valve. Thus, Gassmann teaches a housing cover 1 in combination with a connector (that could be considered a fitting by Applicant) and does not teach first and second hollow fittings as applicant asserts the housing cannot be considered a fitting.

The fact that the housing cover 1 cannot be considered a second hollow fitting is further exemplified by the language "whereupon inlet pipes having outside diameters complementary in size to the diameters of the wells can be selectively and alternatively secured within the respective wells to fluidly connect such pipes to the fluid conduit and first hollow fitting." The Examiner argues that this limitation is merely an intended use and therefore implies there is no corresponding

structure or limitation taught within Gassmann that needs to be provided. Applicant cannot agree. Specifically, the last limitation that describes the first and second wells of the second hollow fitting requires that these wells have such a structure that whereupon inlet pipes having outside diameters complementary to the size of the diameters of the wells can be selectively and alternatively secured within the respective wells to fluidly connect such pipes in the fluid conduit and first hollow fitting. Thus, the structure of the wells in the second hollow fitting must be such that this functioning may occur.

Applicant asserts that Gassmann does not teach a structure whereupon inlet pipes having outside diameters complementary in size of the diameters of the wells can be selectively and alternatively secured within the respective wells. In other words, Gassmann does not teach how pipes could fit into the housing cover 1. Thus, Applicant asserts that each and every limitation of claim 1 is not met by the Gassmann reference and respectfully request the Examiner reconsider the anticipation rejection. Additionally, dependent claims 2-3 depend on claim 1 and for at least this reason are also considered in allowable form.

Independent claim 5 additionally requires a "second hollow fitting" and "whereupon inlet pipes having outside diameters complementary in size to the diameters of the wells can be selectively and alternatively secured within the respective wells to fluidly connect such pipes to the fluid conduit and the first hollow fitting." Similarly, as argued above the structure that allows for such functional limitation is not taught in the Gassmann reference and thus Gassmann cannot anticipate claim 5. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to

reconsider the anticipation rejection of claim 5. Additionally, claims 6-7 depend on claim 5 and for at least this reason are also considered in allowable form.

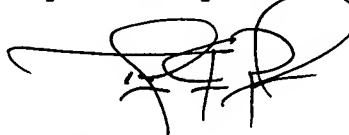
Claim 7 has been amended to overcome a 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. In doing so, the Applicant has also required that "at least one well has adhesive therein for securing the well to a pressurized fluid supply therein." Because Gassmann does not teach adhesive within a well, anticipation is not present. Thus, even if the Examiner considers claim 5 anticipated, Applicant asserts that dependent claim 5 is patentable over the Gassmann reference. Consequently, Applicant asserts that all pending claims are allowable subject matter.

#### CONCLUSION

If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 515/558-0200.

All fees or extensions of time believed to be due in connection with this response are attached hereto; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-2098.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy J. Zarley  
Reg. No. 45,253  
ZARLEY LAW FIRM, P.L.C  
Capital Square  
400 Locust Street, Suite 200  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2350  
Phone No. (515) 558-0200  
Fax No. (515) 558-7790  
Customer No. 34082

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Attorneys of Record